

## 2024 Public Policy & Advocacy Priorities



Together, we have  
the power to end  
hunger in  
Massachusetts.

### Access to healthy food is a human right

GBFB has a vision to pursue a bold, yet thoughtful policy agenda, supporting sustainable, root-cause actions at the intersection of hunger relief. We aim to advance equity through public policy by addressing **food access and affordability, economic opportunities, and food systems infrastructure**, utilizing **equitable and transparent data** to inform public policy in coordination with food access efforts around the state.

Working in partnership with our government officials at the federal, state, and local level, network partners, statewide coalitions, and the general public is key to achieving our mission.

**For more information,  
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- GBFB powers a robust network of 600 food distribution partners in 190 communities across Eastern Massachusetts.
- Our statewide [Food Equity and Access](#) report found that as many as 1 in 3 people in MA faced food insecurity at some point in 2021, with disproportionate impacts on Hispanic (61%), Black (50%), and LGBTQ+ (45%) populations.
- Annually, GBFB distributes the equivalent of nearly 90 million healthy meals, a 70% increase from before COVID-19.
- GBFB's SNAP Outreach and Enrollment team submitted almost 800 SNAP applications last year and connected over 1,000 referrals to our partners.

# State Policy Priorities

| POLICY   | DESCRIPTION   | ASK   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)</b> | The <a href="#">Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)</a> helps provide healthy food in every community in the Commonwealth through funding the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (four state food banks). GBFB manages the MDAR state contract food purchasing for the state. | <b>\$47million in FY25 budget (Budget line item 2511-0105).</b>   |
| <b>Hunger Free Campus Initiative</b>                           | GBFB co-leads the <a href="#">MA Hunger Free Campus Coalition</a> , an effort to promote food access among college students at two- and four-year public higher education institutions in Massachusetts through legislation.  | <b>Support <a href="#">H.1293/S.835</a> in FY23-FY24 legislative session and \$4M in FY25 budget request.</b> |
| <b>Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)</b>                        | GBFB supports the <a href="#">MA Food System Collaborative campaign</a> to expand SNAP recipients' ability to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables directly from farmers through full and permanent funding of the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).  | <b>Support full and permanent funding in FY25 budget (Budget line item 4400-1004).</b>                        |
| <b>Cash Assistance for Families in Deep Poverty</b>            | GBFB supports the <a href="#">Lift Our Kids coalition</a> that aims to raise cash assistance grants by 20% a year until the maximum grant reaches half the federal poverty level.   | <b>Support <a href="#">H.144/S.75</a> in FY23-24 legislative session.</b>                                     |
| <b>Tax Relief</b>  | GBFB supports the Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition which aims to pass robust and inclusive tax relief for families with low incomes.  | <b>Expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and pass the Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC).</b>      |
| <b>Nutrition and Cash Benefits for Immigrants</b>              | GBFB supports the Feeding Our Neighbors Coalition that aims to restore state-funded food and cash benefits for legally-residing immigrants denied federal SNAP and cash assistance.   | <b>Support <a href="#">H.135/S.76</a> in FY23-FY24 legislative session and FY25 budget request.</b>           |

# Federal Policy Priorities

| POLICY  | DESCRIPTION   | ASK   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</b>                           | The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) supports food access for low-income seniors. GBFB oversees this program for 2,700 MA seniors and is the sole administrator for the state.  | <b>Ensure adequate funding, expand eligibility, and maintain MA's current caseload for CSFP in the Farm Bill.</b> |
| <b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>                     | As our nation's first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps more than 40 million low-income Americans afford food. In Massachusetts, for every 1 meal distributed by a food bank, SNAP provides 5 meals.   | <b>Protect and strengthen SNAP, extend increased benefit limits in the Farm Bill.</b>                             |
| <b>The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)</b>                        | This USDA program supplements the diets of low-income Americans, particularly senior citizens, by providing emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.   | <b>Invest and streamline USDA food assistance programs, increase TEFAP funding in the Farm Bill.</b>              |
| <b>Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)</b> | WIC provides critical nutrition services for low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5. Food programs during and after school, and summer meal programs included in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization are essential to ensuring every child has access to nutrition needed to thrive. | <b>Support full funding for WIC.</b>  |
| <b>Child Tax Credit</b>   | The Child Tax Credit (CTC), a tool proven to lift children out of poverty, provides tax relief to working families.   | <b>Expand and pass the CTC.</b>   |